

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

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USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 AID-05 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3028

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1448

GEORGETOWN FOR HABIB/TICE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PORG, OAS, BB

SUBJ: BARBADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER'S VIEWS ON
OAS AND 7TH OASGA

1. AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION LAST EVENING, I HAD A PRIVATE
CONVERSATION WITH BARBADIAN MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
HENRY DEB. FORDE, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH HE COMMENTED AT
SOME LENGTH ON THE OAS AND 7TH OASGA. THE VIEWS HE EXPRESSED
ARE SUMMARIZED IN THE SUCCEEDING PARAGRAPHS.

2. THOUGH INITIALLY DOUBTFUL THAT IT WAS IN BARBADOS' IN-
TEREST TO CONTINUE IN THE OAS, FORDE NOW BELIEVES THAT
MEMBERSHIP IN THAT ORGANIZATION IS USEFUL AND THAT ADDI-
TIONAL BENEFITS ARE POTENT ALLY AVAILABLE. IN ORDER FOR
SUCH BENEFITS TO BE REALIZED, HOWEVER, THE OAS MUST BE
RESTRUCTURED AND MUST GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO THE
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CARIBBEAN. THE PERMANENT COUNCIL SHOULD BE CONTINUED, BUT
IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT MINISTERS MEET "AT LEAST ONCE A
YEAR." ALSO, MINISTERS MUST BE INVOLVED PERSONALLY IN
THE CHARTER REFORM EXERCISE. WHILE THE STRONGER STAND
THE OAS HAS RECENTLY TAKEN ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS HIGHLY
COMMENDABLE, IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THAT ORGANIZATION
HS SHOWN ITSELF LESS BOLD ON OTHER MATTERS. SUCH PROB-

LEMS AS BELIZE CANNOT CONTINUE TO BE IGNORED OR SWEEPED UNDER THE CARPET.

3. SECRETARY VANCE'S SPEECH TO THE 7TH OASGA HIT JUST THE RIGHT NOTE AND REINFORCED THE HOPE OF THOSE WHO HEARD IT THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN THAT ITS PREDECESSORS HAD BEEN. FORDE HAD FIRST READ THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S ADDRESS WHILE TRAVELING FROM PEARL'S AIRPORT TO ST. GEORGE'S AND HAD BEEN SURPRISED AND PLEASED TO NOTE THAT

IT CONVERGED IN SEVERAL POINTS WITH THE REMARKS HE HAD HIMSELF PREPARED.

4. THE PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY THE GRENADIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE MEETING HAD SURPASSED HIS (FORDE'S) EXPECTATIONS.

PRIME MINISTER GAIRY HAD ONCE AGAIN SHOWN THAT HE IS A "SKILLFUL BEGGAR." NEVERTHELESS, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF SHORTCOMINGS IN THE ARRANGEMENTS, AND IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE GRENADIANS DID NOT TAKE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES MORE SERIOUSLY.

5. THE GOB IS PLEASED THAT THE BARBADIAN CANDIDATE FOR A SEAT ON THE INTER-AMERICAN JUDICIAL COMMITTEE, CHIEF JUSTICE SIR WILLIAM DOUGLAS, WAS ELECTED. FORDE EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION FOR THE US
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DELEGATION'S SUPPORT AND FOR THE EFFORT MADE BY THE EMBASSY TO SECURE IT.

6. IN CONCLUSION, FORDE SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO DISCUSSING WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB SOME OF THE SUBJECTS VENTILATED AT THE OASGA.
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